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School Committee Minutes 04/12/2011

Approved by Arlington School Committee May 10, 2011

*Arlington School Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
7:30 p.m.*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room, 6th Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Joseph Curro, Ms. Leba Heigham, Mr. William Hayner

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Steve Pereira, AAA Representative, Student Representatives Mr. Rob Shea and Mr. Adam Zakaria and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Mr. Thielman and Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education

*Students Representatives exited the meeting at 9:40 p.m.
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 10:45 and returned at 10:47 p.m.*

Ms. Starks opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. Starks had a brief recognition of New / Old School Committee Members, and welcomed Mr. Hayner and Ms. Heigham and Mr. Curro. Ms. Starks will reauthorize the Athletic Advisory Council at the end of this school year in June 2011. Ms. Starks welcomed AEA & AAA representatives continued presence at the School Committee meetings.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Arlington School Committee Subcommittee, Assignments and Liaisons with the following modifications: AEA Unit A adding effective till 9/1/2011 and replace Civil Discourse Committee with Response Coordination Team, seconded by Mr. Hayner.
Voted 6-0

Public Participation (Per File BEDH, Arlington School Committee Policy Manual)

- Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material.
- Issues requiring extensive discussion may be deferred to a future meeting with a scheduled agenda item.
- All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.

None

The Moving Wall

Dr. Bodie announced the public is invited to attend the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; The Moving Wall located at

Arlington High School Baseball Field from April 14-18, 2011 open to the public at 5:00 p.m. around the clock. The Moving Wall is the half-sized replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Arlington High School Program of Studies

Mr. Skidmore and Ms. Villano presented the Program of Studies and the changes for 2011 – 2012. After the School Committee discussed the changes to the Program of Studies the following motion was made:

Mr. Curro moved to direct the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to work with Mr. Skidmore, Ms. Villano, Dr. Bodie and Dr. Raemer to examine any areas where policy changes might need to be updated due to program changes and student course changes by date certain of June 14, 2011 seconded by Mr. Hayner.
Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Program of Studies, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Voted: 6-0

Presentation of the Vision 2020 Survey Results

Ms. Jane Howard and Mr. Josh Lobel presented the survey results from Vision 2020 survey. The survey and the results of the survey will be posted by them to the website.

Recess 8:55 –9:00

Approval of the 2011 - 2012 School Calendar

Dr. Bodie presented the 2011-2012 School Calendar.

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar with the start date for students Thursday, September 8, 2011 and move the last day of school to June 19, 2011, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Mr. Curro moved to amend to not adjust the last day of the school calendar and take off, Thursday, September 29, 2011 as a holiday for Rosh Hashanah and leave June 20, 2011 as the last day of school, seconded by Ms. Heigham
Voted: 5-1 Dr. Allison-Ampe voting No

The School Calendar as amended
Voted: 6-0

The School Committee suggested to the Community Relations Subcommittee to investigate the 2012-2013 School Calendar and look at student and teacher absences on other religious observances as well as investigate when school vacations from surrounding communities are taken.

The start date for students in 2011- 2012 school year will be Thursday, September 8, 2011.

Approval of Job Descriptions

Ms. Johnson presented the following three Business Office job descriptions for jobs that already exist but have been updated, as MASBO recommended.

- Procurement Officer
- Accounts Receivable Coordinator
- Accounts Payable

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the job descriptions, Procurement Officer

Accounts Receivable Coordinator, Accounts Payable seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Dr. Bodie presented the Human Resource Officer job description.

The School Committee members suggested adding in the salary range, and adding additional language to the duties.

Mr. Curro moved to approve the proposed job description for the Human Resource Office with addition of a salary range of \$80,000 - \$88,000 and with the addition of the phrase “in addition to any other applicable protection under federal, state and local law following the bullet describing EEO responsibilities, seconded by Mr. Pierce

Ms. Heigham moved to amend to remove Competitive Salary from the Human Resource Officer job description, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to amend to included in third bullet from bottom of second page: Process to reviews processes and add after district “and actively engages in recruitment practices to increase diversity”, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted 4-2 Ms. Starks, and Dr. Allison-Ampe voted No

The main motion as amended

Voted: 6-0 motion passes

Override and Town Meeting Discussion

Ms. Starks moved to approve that the School Committee supports an override to ensure that the quality of education in Arlington is maintained at an acceptable level for all students Pre-K to 12, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Curro moved that the School Committee does support the undertaking of a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a consolidated Town-School Finance Department, as envisioned by Article 51 on the Annual Town meeting Warrant, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll call: Mr. Hayner No, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Pierce No, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Ms. Starks Yes

Voted: 4-2 motion passes

Mr. Curro moved that the School Committee does further instruct the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer to actively pursue memoranda of understanding with the Town Manager and/or other relevant municipal officials regarding the levying of indirect charges to the School Department (MASBO Recommendation No.23) and the refund of Medicaid revenues (MASBO Recommendation No. 24), seconded by Mr. Hayner

Dr. Allison-Ampe amended the motion to change “refund” to “allocation”, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 5-1 motion passes, Ms. Heigham voting No

The main motion as amended

Voted: 4-1-1 Motion passes, Ms. Heigham voting No, Mr. Hayner abstains

Dr. Bodie said the Five Year Planning Committee submitted a 3-year override recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The recommended amount for the override was based on the amount of money that would be needed to have a level service budget for FY 12. The recommendation also included an additional \$600,000 for the schools.

The recommendation from the Administrative Team that was presented to the School Committee members for the proposed additions to 3-year Override Proposal includes: reduction in athletic fees, restoration of Elementary Art, Music and PE, restoration of Reading and Math support at Ottoson Middle School, elective courses at Ottoson Middle School to reduce directed students Physical education teacher at the Ottoson, social worker, elective courses at the high schools to reduce directed students and adding back an elementary teacher.

Mr. Pierce moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 5-1 Ms. Heigham voting No

Dr. Bodie would appreciate a motion to have the Chair of the School Committee approve the materials included in the Budget Books being sent to Town Meeting.

Mr. Curro moved to authorize the Chair of the School Committee, Ms. Starks, and the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee, Dr. Allison-Ampe to review and authorize the Budget Books to Town Meeting, seconded by Ms. Heigham

Voted: 6-0

Update on Stratton & Thompson

Ms. Johnson updated the committee members on the progress of the Stratton and Thompson Schools. The Stratton roof, boiler and windows are being replaced, and the Thompson plans are moving along well.

Dr. Bodie said she is moving forward with plans to move Thompson students out of the building next year and bus routes and schedules are being worked on.

Consent Agenda - All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

**Approval of Warrant # 11129 Total Warrant Amount \$ 646,205.42 dated March 22, 2011*

**Approval of School Committee Minutes August 26, 2010, January 11, 2011, January 25, 2011, February 8, 2011, February 15, 2011, March 1, 2011, March 8, 2011*

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda of Warrant # 11129 Total Warrant Amount \$ 646,205.42 dated March 22, 2011, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes Approval of School Committee Minutes August 26, 2010, January 11, 2011, January 25, 2011,

February 8, 2011, February 15, 2011, March 1, 2011, March 8, 2011, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 5-0-1, Mr. Hayner abstained

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on all correspondence received:

Several emails from parents concerning school calendar for 2011-2012 school year.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald concerning Organizational Meeting tonight at 7pm and regular SC meeting tonight at 7:30pm.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald concerning SC availability to meet jointly with BOS in the coming weeks concerning override question.

Memo to SC Members from Principal Charles Skidmore regarding course listings at AHS

Email from Chair Starks to SC Members with attached memo from Office of Campaign and Political Finance concerning the extent to which public resources may be used for political purposes.

Email from Dr. Allison Ampe to members of the SC regarding a flyer distributed outside of the Stratton School.

Emails from SC members concerning Sunday's Pancake Breakfast to support the Arlington Patriots Day Parade.

Emails from teachers regarding retirement and retirement incentive program

Email notifying SC of AHS Visual Arts Dept holding its annual Spring Art Exhibit from April 6-13 in teachers' café at AHS

Vision 2020 response and data tabulation from annual survey

Email to SC from parent concerning athletic fees and to whom checks should be made out to.

Email from Chair Starks to Superintendent Bodie and members of the SC concerning King Arthur's Feast to take place on May 7th from 7-10pm at Town Hall to benefit Arlington Enrichment Collaborative

(In packet tonight):

Email from Stephen Pereira to SC with letter signed by numerous Arlington Administrators voicing support of

Superintendent Bodie.

Email from KB to SC regarding Bishop School Principal Announcement

Email from KB to SC regarding retirement incentive

Email from Pasquale Tassone to SC and others congratulating staff member Michael Byrne for being one of 25 participants nationwide to be selected for the Shakespeare Institute an in depth training program for middle and high school teachers in understanding and teaching Shakespeare's plays, language and themes held at Columbia University from 8/1-8/12

Email from Kerry Dunne to SC and others concerning the model congress team and how well AHS fared 5 awards!

Copy of letter from parent to Kathy Bodie requesting copies of emails.

Email regarding OMS's award winning 5-2-1 program beginning Monday, 3/28

Notification of electrical malfunction at Thompson School causing early dismissal

Response of Kathy Bodie regarding picketing outside AHS on 3/31

ACMI invitation to lecture on art wed 4/6

Email from Cindy Bouvier to Schools and SC concerning upcoming parent forums in April regarding bullying tomorrow 4/13 from 7-8:30 at Hardy School and one on parenting and teaching challenging kids Tuesday 4/26 from 6:30-9:00 at OMS

Email to Principal Skidmore, Kathy Bodie, Ted Dever and SC concerning screening committee for position of varsity boy's ice hockey coach

Letters regarding a parcel of School Department land

Letter regarding sponsorship for the Rotary Club of Arlington presenting a night of comedy with Jimmy Tingle on May 20th at the Regent Theater

Email from SC member Sue Sheffler to SC and School dept concerning the Cherry Blossom Fest to take place at OMS TH 4/28 from 6:30-8:00

Mr. Curro moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:30 p.m., seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Voted: 6-0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie's report included an announcement of a New ACMI Education Program called "From The Superintendent's Corner" which will begin airing on Thursday, April 14, at 5:30 on ACMI's education channel. Dr. Bodie thanked everyone involved with the film Race To Nowhere documentary shown on April 7, 2011 at the Regent Theater. Dr. Bodie congratulated the Model Congress Team and the WGBH High School Quiz team. Dr. Bodie said that Food Service Director, Denise Boucher reported that she has a tight control of our food inventory and all foods are closely monitored. The Nursing staff reported seeing 4,611 students in the month of March. Dr. Bodie said the Trivia Bee was once again a success.

Committee & Appointee Reports

Mr. Curro moved to table Committee and Appointee Reports, seconded Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Executive Session

Mr. Curro moved to enter Executive Session at 11:25 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the committee. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel and exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 6-0

Adjournment 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jp